

Vermillion County Bridge No. 120
Spanning the Little Vermillion River on Main Street
Newport
Vermillion County
Indiana

HAER No. IN-96

HAER
IND
83-NEWP,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Great Lakes System Support Office
Midwest Field Area
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 46102

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
VERMILLION COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 120

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Location: Spanning the Little Vermilion River on Main Street in
Newport, Vermillion County, Indiana

UTM: 16.465040.4415040

Quad: Newport, Indiana

Date of Construction: 1913

Present Owners: Vermillion County Commissioners

Present Use: Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic

Significance: Bridge No. 120 is a reinforced and filled concrete arch structure. The spandrel walls are solid and the parapet walls are paneled. Concrete standards grace the walls' end posts. The ornate decoration of the bridge would suggest greater urban development than the town of Newport actually has experienced. This bridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places based on engineering significance at the local level. This determination was made by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in July 1997 in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Vermillion County Commissioners, Indiana Department of Transportation, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer as a mitigation measure prior to replacement of the bridge.

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Description:

The existing Main Street bridge spans the Little Vermilion River in Section 26, Township 17 North, Range 9 West, as shown on the Newport, Indiana 7.5 minute U.S.G.S. quadrangle map. The structure provides the only access across the Little Vermilion River on the north side of Newport. The surrounding land is primarily undeveloped with residential and agricultural uses. North of the bridge, agricultural and woods dominate. To the south is the town of Newport with various residential units.

The Main Street bridge is a reinforced filled concrete arch structure built in 1913 by Van Fossan and Noble of Parke County, Indiana. The two span structure is 208 feet in length with an out-to-out width of 20.8 feet that provides one 18.7 foot travel lane. The spandrel walls are solid and the parapet walls are paneled. Concrete standards grace the walls' endposts.

History:

On April 7, 1913 the Vermillion County Board of Commissioners awarded the contract to construct the bridge on Main Street over the Little Vermilion River to Van Fossan and Noble for the sum of \$8,300.00. The new bridge on Main Street was intended to replace an existing bridge on Popular Street which was to the west three (3) city blocks. On August 13, 1913, the Vermillion County Board of Commissioners appointed Mr. James Chipps as superintendent of the project, representing the county. The contractor began construction in the summer of 1913. Work on the structure was suspended in December of 1913 due to the winter weather. The bridge was essentially completed, except for work on the banisters. The bridge was completed in the spring of 1914. Upon completion of the Main Street bridge, the covered bridge on Popular Street (J.J. Daniels 1868) was taken down.

The Main Street bridge is currently the only structure to provide access north over the Little Vermilion River. The structure is in fair condition with signs of deterioration. The center pier within the channel has some spalling damage on the west end. The wingwall on the southeast corner of the structure has cracked and separated from the bridge. The current sufficiency rating of the structure is 31.8; a rating below 50 warrants replacement. The structure contains only one vehicular lane and the posted weight limit is 5 tons. The deteriorating condition of the bridge and substandard design warrants the replacement of the structure.

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In the summer of 1980, a series of repairs was made to maintain the structure. On June 2, 1980, the Vermillion County Commissioners signed a contract with White Excavating Inc. of Clinton, Indiana, for \$103,979.05 to perform the repairs on the structure. Design plans for the repairs were developed by Beam, Longest & Neff, Inc., Consulting Engineers of Indianapolis, Indiana. Repairs to the structure included removal of the existing roadway surface, remove and replace portions of the spandrel wall, repair vertical cracks, repoint masonry at various locations and install new guardrail on both ends of the structure. Repairs to the structure were completed in the fall of 1980.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Record of Proceedings of the Commissioners of Vermillion County, Indiana, April 7, 1913, page 78-79. (Original document in possession of the Vermillion County Auditor's Office, Newport, Indiana.)

"A Busy Day for the Vermillion County Commissioners Last Thursday." Hoosier State, August 13, 1913, page 1. (Original article in possession of the Newport Public Library.)

"The Concrete Bridge." Hoosier State, December 10, 1913, page 1. (Original article in possession of the Newport Public Library.)

Harold L. O'Donnell. Newport and Vermillion Township. The First 100 Years 1824-1924. Interstate Printers and Publishers, Danville, Illinois.

HABS/HAER Inventory Survey Card. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. 1989.

LIBRARIES

Indiana Historical Society,
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

Indiana State Library
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Town of Newport Public Library
P.O. Box 97
Newport, Indiana 47966

ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Vermillion County Historical Society
Vermillion County Courthouse
Newport, Indiana 47966

Vermillion County Auditor's Office
Vermillion County Courthouse
P.O. Box 188
Newport, Indiana 47966

Vermillion County Surveyor's Office
Vermillion County Courthouse
P.O. Box 232
Newport, Indiana 47966

Indiana Historical Society
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 West Washington Street, Room 274
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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A detailed topographic map of the Newport area. The map features a grid system with vertical and horizontal lines. The Ashville River flows from the top right towards the center, where it is crossed by the Main Street Bridge. The town of Newport is located in the lower center, with a grid of streets and buildings. To the left of Newport is a cemetery labeled 'Cem'. A well is marked near the center of Newport. The map includes contour lines with elevations such as 480, 490, 499, 500, 530, 550, 640, 650, and 660. A benchmark 'BM 498' is marked near the bridge. The word 'Newport' is written in a large, bold font. The word 'Ashville' is written along the river. The word 'Cem' appears twice, once near the cemetery and once near the bottom right. The number '26' is written near the bridge. The number '35' is written near the bottom center. The number '646' is written near the bottom left. The number '482' is written near the top right. The number '499' is written near the center left. The number '500' is written near the center. The number '530' is written near the top center. The number '550' is written near the top right. The number '640' is written near the bottom left. The number '650' is written near the bottom center. The number '660' is written near the bottom right. The number '0' is written near the top left. The number '1' is written near the bottom left. The number '2' is written near the bottom right. The number '3' is written near the bottom right. The number '4' is written near the bottom right. The number '5' is written near the bottom right. The number '6' is written near the bottom right. The number '7' is written near the bottom right. The number '8' is written near the bottom right. The number '9' is written near the bottom right. The number '10' is written near the bottom right. The number '11' is written near the bottom right. The number '12' is written near the bottom right. The number '13' is written near the bottom right. 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